FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) to (c) Muriate of Potash (MOP) is a decontrolled fertilizer. Its availability and distribution are regulated by the market forces of demand and supply operating within the parameters of Concession Scheme of the Government of India. According to availabe reports, cyclonic disturbance and rough sea on Eastern Coast affected movement of MOP from Vizag and Kakinada ports to West Bengal during the first fortnight of November'98. However, the despatches were accelerated to West Bengal during the second fortnight. As a result, the situation has improved and against the estimated requirement of 45,000 MTs by November 49,000 MTs were made available by 22nd November, 1998. The Government of West Bengal is maintaining contact with the MOP suppliers.

उर्वरक संयंत्रों में निवेश के लिए ओमान का आमंत्रण

624. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ल:**

क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने ओमान को देश के उर्वरक संयंत्रों में निवेश करने और इस संबंध में निर्यात शुरू करने के लिए आमंत्रित किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कंपनियों के नाम सहित उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) इस संबंध में प्रस्ताव भेजने वाली कम्पनियों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) इस मामले में किए गए समझौतों की निबंधन और शर्तें क्या हैं; और

(ङ) ओमान ने किन-किन भारतीय उर्वरक संयंत्रों में सहयोग के लिए हस्ताक्षर किये हैं?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० ए० के० पटेल): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) से (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Ban on DDT and Asbestos in USA and France

625. SHRI K.R. MAKANI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDT is banned in USA and Asbestos is banned in France for health reasons;

(b) whether Government would consider banning these two lethal substances;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, why?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) :

(a) France has banned the use of Asbestos w.e.f. 1.1.1997. In USA the use of DDT has been allowed only for control of vector diseases, for health quarantine and in drugs for controlling body lice.

(b) to (d) The use of Blue Asbestos which is toxic and a health hazard has been banned in India. The use of White Asbestos under controlled conditions and conforming to all standards prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards, is permitted.

The use of DDT in agriculture has been banned in the country. However, in very special circumstances warranting the use of DDT for plant protection it can be used under expert Government supervision and can be purchased only by the State or Central Government. DDT is being used in a limited way for public Health Programmes.

निजी क्षेत्र में यूरिया निर्माताओं को राजसहायता

626. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी :**

क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) निजी क्षेत्र में यूरिया निर्माताओं को दी जाने वाली राजसहायता के संबंध में स्थायी संसदीय समिति ने मंत्रालय को अब तक कौन-कौन सी सिफारिशें और सुझाव भेजे हैं;

(ख) इसके प्रति मंत्रालय की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है और इनको लागू करने के लिए उठाये जाने वाले कदमों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या देश में यूरिया की बढ़ती हुई मांग को ध्यान

में रखते हुए राजसहायता के संबंध में और अधिक रियायतें देने का प्रस्ताव भी भेजा गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है तथा इस संबंध में क्या अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई की गई है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डॉ ए.के. पटेल) : (क) और (ख) पेट्रोलियम और रसायन विषयक स्थायी समिति ने 10.7.98 को संसद में प्रस्तुत की गई अपनी छठी रिपोर्ट में यूरिया निर्माता एककों को राज-सहायता के भुगतान के संबंध में कुछ सिफारिशें की हैं। समिति ने रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने की तारीख अर्थात 10.1.99 से 6 माह के भीतर इन सिफारिशों पर "की गई कार्रवाई की रिपोर्ट" मांगी है।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Disposal of Toxic Waste

627. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken so far for disposal of the toxic waste left by the Union Carbide Plant in and around the factory premises, where an unpercedent gas-leak disaster took place in December 1984; and

(b) whether ground water and soil of the area within and around the plant premises have been tested to find out, if the same are still contaminated due to prolonged spillage of toxic waste in the area; if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS : (DR. A.K. PATEL)

(a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have informed that following steps have been taken for disposal of toxic waste left by Union Carbide plant at Bhopal :

1. Waste left in the three Solar evaporation ponds of the factory has been safely dumped in a secured landfill.

2. The studies for the disposal of tar residues placed in the premises of the factory are being carried out an Indian Institute of chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad.

3. According to National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, report approx. one hectare land area in different pockets is contaminated and needs reclamation.

The lease of the land has been terminated by Deptt. of Industry, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, and possession taken by the District Industries Centre, Bhopal on 9.7.98 and that Department will take all remedial measures for decontamination, reclamation and all relevant action to prevent any health hazards.

(b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have informed that they have got the ground water and soil around Union Carbide factory area tested by NEERI, Nagpur and M.P. Pollution Control Board, Bhopal and no contamination has been detected.

Recovery of extra subsidy paid to fertilizer companies

628. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "Urea Units come under the Lens for Goldplating", published in the "Times of India" dated 23rd September, 1998;

(b) if so, the action taken so far to recover the extra subsidy paid to fertilizer companies because of over stating of the nameplate capacity of plants;

(c) whether the recovery could be with retrospective effect; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (d) Government has seen the newsitem that appeared in the Times of India on 23.9.98 and is aware of the high capacity utilisation being attained by some of the urea manufacturing units. Government is seized of the complexities of the various issues involved as well as the need to take a balanced and holistic view of the matter.